

Amendments to the Specification

On page 1 of the specification, line 2, substitute the following paragraph:

The invention relates to a device and a method for extracting liquid samples from containers and/or tubes filled with a medium, in particular from fermenters, via a filter membrane by means of a partial vacuum.

On page 3 of the specification, line 11, delete the paragraph beginning with “The object is achieved by a device”.

On page 4 of the specification, line 13, substitute the following paragraph:

The gas used to empty the pipe system is, for example, compressed air, which acts like a hydrophobic medium. The filter membrane, on the other hand, is made of a hydrophilic material which can only be penetrated when there is a high gas overpressure. The reliable emptying of the pipe system caused by these properties of the gas and the filter membrane material without the filter membrane being penetrated in the direction of the medium means that not only the pipe system, but also the remaining parts of the device are completely freed of the sample liquid from the previous sampling. Hence, the complete emptying of the interior of the device of sample liquid and the resulting dead-volume-free sampling is achieved in a simple way.